SUPPLEMENT TO

47

OXFORD REFOR

TO THE

HON. FRANCI

MONTREAL:

SATURDAY MORNING, OCT. 24, 1846.

[From the Long Point Advocate.]

On Tuesday, the 13th instant, the Liberal Members of the BROCK DISTRICT COUNCIL and a few of their friends, entertained the Hon. FRANCIS HINCKS, the late Representative of the County of Oxford, at a PUBLIC DINNER at the Royal Oak Tavern, Woodstock. The day was unfortunately very unfavourable, which prevented the attendance of a number of gentlemen from remote parts of the country.

About 5 o'clock, P. M., the Chair was taken by Wm. Carroll, Esq., District Councillor of Norwich; the Vice Chairmen were Eliakim Malcolm, Esq, District Councillor of Oakland, and Charles Chadwick, Esq., District Councillor of Dereham. Mr. Hincks sat on the right of the Chairman, and Jared Vining, Esq., District Councillor of Nissouri, the Senior Member of the Council on his left.

After doing justice to an excellent dinner, provided by Mr. Hill, the Chairman rose to propose the health of the Queen.

He said he thought he could propose that Toast with great propriety. He had been, he might say, *born* a Loyalist. His father was one of eight brothers who had emigrated to the United States before the Revolution.—When the war broke out his father was the *only one* of the eight that adhered to the British Crown (cheers.) He had afterwards emigrated to New Brunswick, where he (the Chairman) was born. His father had served in the British army, and he (the Chairman had done so likewise, (applause) and he had imbibed principles of loyalty from his earliest youth. (Loud cheers.) He felt assured that the health of the Queen would be heartily responded to.

1st. THE QUEEN.

The next regular toast was prefaced by the Chairman with a few appropriate remarks, and honoured with the respect due to the consort of our beloved sovereign.

2nd. PRINCE ALBERT and the ROYAL FAMILY.

3rd. The GOVERNOR GENERAL.

In proposing this Toast the Chairman said, he knew little of the Governor General, but he believed he was an old soldier, and as such he respected him, as well as on account of his being the Representative of his Sovereign. He (the Chairman) was himself an old soldier, having served throughout the last war, and having been in every engagement on the frontier.

4th. THE PEOPLE—the only true source of legitimate power.

The Chairman had now to propose THE TOAST of the evening: Our Guest, the Hon. FRANCIS HINCKS, whose presence among us after a long absence, was most cordially welcome. (Great applause.) When, said the Chairman, it became known that Mr. HINCKS was in Upper Canada, the Council of the District happening to be in session, the Reform members thereof determined upon inviting him to accept a public dinner at Woodstock. The time for preparation of the last three years, and to compare the conduct of our Ministers with that of English statesmen. Twice within the past year has Mr. Draper, by making overtures to the leading members of the Opposition, virtually acknowledged that his administration does not enjoy a sufficient amount of public confidence. At this moment the Ministry is virtually disorganized. One member resigned several months ago and his place has not been filled up, although it has been offered to a member of the Opposition, and has been by him refused. (Cheers.) Mr. Secretary Daly made arrangements several months since to receive the vacant office of Civil Secretary, which has been conducted by a clerk since Mr. Higginson's departure, merely to suit the convenience of the Ministry. Mr. Papineau, after an absence of months, has returned to his office, although he only holds it until it is convenient to appoint a successor. Compare these proceedings with English practice. When Sir Robert Peel resigned previous to the last session of Parliament, Lord John Russell was called on to form an administration. He experienced difficulties from want of co-operation among his friends, & he immediately abandoned the task, and his opponent was reinstated. He did not attempt to conduct the business of the country with an incomplete Cabinet, nor would he have been suffered to do so. But here, gentlemen, we have during the last three years had a Ministry whose whole conduct is a practical violation of Responsible Government—which introduces measures to Parliament only to abandon them, and which is unable to carry out the policy of the party by which it has been placed in power. We have in the circumstances attending a late appointment which has caused some discussion, proof positive that the practice of the present Government is not dissimilar from that of Lord Metcalfe. Sir Allan M'Nab applied personally to the Governor for the appointment of a deputy. He was authorised to write to his friend with an offer of the appointment and the Ministers afterwards compelled the Governor to retract his promise, thus bringing the Government of the country into contempt with the public. I need not however prosecute this subject. Responsible Government will never be carried out honestly by men who are at heart opposed to it, and whose real object is to induce a belief that its working is impracticable. The remedy is with the people alone. They alone are responsible for the present state of affairs, and they will do well instead of expecting relief from a change of Governors, to exert themselves to secure a better representation. To do that we must convince the public that our objects are such as ought to entitle us to their support. The present is a most favourable opportunity for doing so. Party spirit has in a great degree subsided and the public at large are enquiring calmly as to the views of public men. It is singular enough that at this crisis the most prominent question before the public is one calculated to unite in its advocacy many who have formerly been opposed to each other, but whose interests with respect to this measure are identically the same. I mean the Assessment Bill had also been denounced at the last election. You will all recollect the cry about board fences, fruit trees, &c., but when the present Ministry introduced a bill upon the subject, the very same principle had been adopted of assessing according to value. True, the assessment of personal property was not provided for, the whole taxation being thrown upon the owners of real property, who are the farmers. I have perhaps already trespassed too long on the patience of my friends. (Cries no, no, go on, go on), but I conceive it incumbent upon me to refer to one or two subjects of a personal character, and I will endeavour to be as brief as possible. Most of those present have heard of the Rev. Mr. Burns, who paid a visit to this part of the province & has caused some excitement. It is not my intention to say anything disrespectful of that gentleman now, nor have I ever done so. I disapproved of his proceedings believing them calculated to excite dissension among the people, and I fearlessly expressed this opinion, nor can I now retract it. I will state facts. Mr. Burns came to Montreal, a stranger, and almost immediately commenced preaching in the streets, his object being to convert the Roman Catholics. He spoke of the religion of the great majority of the people of Montreal in terms which led to violence, and the end of it was, some two thousand persons assembled in the streets of the city with arms in their hands to shed one another's blood. Such was the state of feeling caused by Mr. Burns' preaching. If that gentleman were right then all the other clergy of the province were wrong, inasmuch as none of them had pursued a similar course, and Mr. Burns himself, by abandoning the field, has virtually admitted that he was in error.—There is another subject upon which I desire to make some explanation. I allude to what has been termed the Jesuit Controversy. Now all I desire to do on the present occasion is to make a plain statement of facts. I will not revive old controversies, nor do I wish to impute blame to any one who has differed from me; but I certainly must say that my views have been wholly misunderstood.—The origin of the dispute was a statement made by the Rev. Mr. Wilkes at New York to the effect that great ignorance prevailed among the people of Lower Canada, and that this was caused by the influence of the Catholic Clergy against education. I, connected as I was with a press which was the organ of Catholics as well as Protestants, felt it my duty to correct what I believe to be a misstatement. It was not a fact that the Catholic Clergy had opposed education; on the contrary, the educational institutions of Lower Canada are highly creditable to those who have established them. At their colleges an excellent classical education, with board, is provided for less than £20 a year. I will not pursue the subject, but will just read an extract or two from papers which all will admit to be good authority. The first, strange to say, is from the *Banner*. That print, on a recent occasion, said: "the Church of Rome, which was wont to dread education, and the Church of England, which habitually neglected

matter bro
Chairman,
circumstan
the VALUA
voice. (G
said Mr H
men will re
issued whe
County. (
were repre
new one w
ame was
what sort
other party
more comp
wn friend
ill ask n
Oxford whe
father have
who is gen
placed in th
who have b
good, one w
Commiss
overlooked
prising men
as much
prosperity
men, strang
quainted, a
two in the
hear.) In
several resp
ship had
inflict such
Tidy. (He
I wish to
worthy
Council.
have been
I know him
former, and
acquired a
respected h
of the cou
(Cheers.)
my venerab
sent. Tha
of the Distr
to whom th
will now p
CARROLL Es
chair. [The
and loud
The CHA
this honour
was not in
ners, and h
the
MR. VINI
joined by th
words in re
member of
been elected
Institutions
to I much e
believed the
the improv
not help re

NT TO THE PILOT.

21

REFORM DINNER

TO THE

ANCIS HINCKS.

lso been denounced at
will all recollect the
s, fruit trees, &c., be
inistry introduced a bi
very same principle ha
ing according to value
of personal property was
whole taxation being
ers of real property, who
ve perhaps already tres-
patience of my friends.
on), but I conceive it
refer to one or two sub-
racter, and I will endea-
possible. Most of those
he Rev. Mr. Burns, who
t of the province & ha
t. It is not my intention
pectful of that gentleman
done so. I disapprove
eving them calculated to
ong the people, and I
is opinion, nor can I now
facts. Mr. Burns came
er, and almost immedi-
aching in the streets, his
t the Roman Catholics.
on of the great majority
eal in terms which led
nd of it was, some two
embled in the streets of
their hands to shed one
was the state of feeling
ns' preaching. If that
then all the other clergy
wrong, inasmuch as none
a similar course, and
y abandoning the field,
that he was in error.—
ubject upon which I
explanation. I allude
med the Jesuit Contro-
ire to do on the present
plain statement of facts.
controversies, nor do I
e to any one who has
I certainly must say that
wholly misunderstood.—
te was a statement made
es at New York to the
nce prevailed among the
ada, and that this was
e of the Catholic Clergy
connected as I was with
e organ of Catholics as
lt it my duty to correct
a misstatement. It was
olic Clergy had opposed
ears, the educational in
ada are highly creditable
blished them. At their
lassical education, with
less than £20 a year. I
ject, but will just read
n papers which all will
rity. The first, strange
nner. That print, on a
"the Church of Rome,
read education, and the
ich habitually neglected

matter brought before them by our worthy Chairman, after patiently investigating all the circumstances, SUSTAINED THE ESTIMATES OF THE VALUATORS, there being but one dissenting voice." (Great cheering.) One topic more said Mr Hincks, and I have done. Gentlemen will recollect the Commission of the Peace issued when I had the honor to represent this County. On that commission both parties were represented—(cheers)—but when the new one was framed, not a single Reformer's name was added to it. (Hear, hear.) And what sort of selections were made from the other party? I can truly say that I have heard more complaints against Mr. Riddell, from his own friends than from mine. (Cheers.) I will ask my friend on my right from West Oxford whether the Reformers would not much rather have had such a man as Mr. Holcroft, who is generally respected by his neighbours, placed in the Commission than most of those who have been appointed? In this neighbourhood, one would suppose that a person framing a Commission of the Peace could scarcely have overlooked Mr. Finkle, one of the most enterprising men in the District, and who has done as much as any other man to advance the prosperity of Woodstock. But instead of such men, strangers, with whose names I am unacquainted, and who have only been a year or two in the County, were selected. (Hear, hear.) In Norwich I have been asked by several respectable farmers, what their township had done to cause the Government to inflict such a magistrate upon it as John A. Tidy. (Hear, hear, hear.) Before concluding I wish to propose a toast. I will give you: *Our worthy Chairman and the Brock District Council.* (Loud cheers,) The Chairman I have been acquainted with for many years, and I know him to be a consistent and zealous Reformer, and one who by his own industry, has acquired a valuable property. He is highly respected here and was equally so in that part of the country where he formerly resided. (Cheers.) I observe with much pleasure that my venerable friend, Mr. Vining, is also present. That gentleman is the senior Councillor of the District, and one of those early settlers to whom the country is so much indebted. I will now propose THE CHAIRMAN, WILLIAM CRIDLL ESQ., AND THE BROCK DISTRICT COUNCIL. [The Hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid loud and continued cheering.]

The CHAIRMAN briefly returned thanks for the honour which had been done him. He was not in the habit of attending Public Dinners, and he felt himself unable to do justice to the toast he had, however, done his best (cheers.)

MR VINING said, as his name had been mentioned by their hon. guest, he would say a few words in reply to the toast. He was the oldest member of the Brock District Council, having been elected on the establishment of Municipal Institutions in the Province. He consequently had much experience of their working, and he believed they were well calculated to promote the improvement of the country. He could not help reminding them of the exertions of

would be multiplied by ten. (Loud cheers.) He (Mr. C.) entertained no doubt of the result of the next election, and he trusted that an opportunity would soon be afforded them of giving expression to their feelings—

8. The Hon. ROBERT BALDWIN, and our fellow Reformers in other parts of Western Canada.—The Hon. L. H. LAFONTAINE, and the Reformers of the Eastern section of the Province—may the union so happily existing between them be long continued. (Protracted cheering.)

Mr. HINCKS returned his sincere thanks on behalf of the gentlemen whose names had been associated with this toast, and who, he could assure his friends, would feel much gratified at the compliment paid to them. He then enlarged on the importance of cultivating a cordial union between the Reformers of the two sections, and referred to the attempt which had been made to create religious dissensions.

Mr. CHADWICK, District Councillor of Dereham, proposed the next toast, which he prefaced with a few appropriate remarks—

9. The CLERGY of all denominations, and es esyecially those which act consistently on the voluntary principle.

The CHAIRMAN, on rising to propose the next toast, said that he was a plain Farmer, and did not profess to understand much of commercial matters, but he was fully convinced of the truth of the principles avowed on this subject by Mr. Hincks, and he had, therefore, much pleasure in proposing the following sentiment—

10. A speedy Repeal of the Imperial Duties and of the Navigation Laws, and Free Trade all over the world. (Loud cheers.)

11. Our Guests from the adjoining Districts who have honoured us with their presence this day.

M. H. FOLEY, Esq., of Simcoe, Editor of the *Long Point Advocate*, returned thanks, and expressed his high gratification at being present on the occasion. He had thought of addressing them on several topics, but found himself forestalled, first by the Hon. Gentleman who was their guest, and afterwards by the Gentleman on his right, who had taken up the only subject which was left to him, viz., the proscription of Reformers by the present Government. In the Talbot District a new Commission of the Peace had been issued, but altho' in the former Commission the names of gentlemen of both parties had been recommended by their Member, Mr. Powell, when a late one was issued, that gentleman, though Member for the County, had not even been consulted, (cries of "shame, shame") and as had been the case in this District so it was in the Talbot, the new appointments were generally unsatisfactory, even to the Tories. Then in selecting Commissioners to decide on the Rebellion claims, altho' certainly party considerations should have been overlooked, all the persons appointed were Tories. As the alterations in the School Act had been spoken of by their Guest, he wished to state one fact, and it was an important one, in confirmation of his statement that the expense would not be reduced by the abolition of the office of Township Superintendent. In the Talbot District, where he

were thoroughly qualified. He wished this to be well understood. Parties could apply to the Visitors for relief if they thought proper. In conclusion he hoped to express his satisfaction at the spread of education in this District, as well as throughout the country.

Mr. KINTREA had been requested to propose the Press. He made some very appropriate remarks on the influence of that great organ of public opinion, to which we were indebted for all the great reforms which had been carried out.

13. The PRESS—that engine so powerful for good or evil.

Mr. MENZIES, of the "Woodstock Herald." having been called on, returned thanks for the compliment to the Press. Although he saw around him several gentlemen connected with the Press, he believed he might say he was the oldest member of it in the room, perhaps in the Province. The benefits derived from the Press were universally acknowledged. He would never have been able to read the Bible but for the Press; it would have been in all probability out of his reach. It would be well for those who admitted the advantages derived from a free and independent Press, to reflect whether they gave that Press the support to which it is entitled. (Cheers.)

Mr. KEARNEY, of the "St. Thomas Free man," had also to acknowledge the compliment paid to the Press, and while he did so, he would remind them of the services of the Hon. gentleman who was their guest that evening, and who if he had no other claims on their gratitude, was entitled to it for the noble stand which he took after the Rebellion, when few dared to give expression to public opinion. He (Mr. Kearney) was well acquainted with the sentiments of the Reformers of Middlesex, und he knew how high their hon. guest stood in their estimation. He had no doubt that if Oxford desired to give him up, Middlesex would be most happy to receive him. (Cheers.) He (Mr. K.) had lately had an opportunity of hearing the sentiments of one of the leading men of the Reform party, regarding that hon. gentleman. That gentleman had expressed his belief that on Commercial subjects there was no one connected with the party at all to be compared to him. He had again to thank them for the honor done to him, and to assure them of the cordial sympathy of the Reformers of Middlesex, several of whom would have been present but for the weather.

Mr. GOBLE, of Blenheim, had been entrusted with a toast, but he felt great diffidence in speaking to it. It was the first Dinner of the kind he had ever attended, and he was not accustomed to public speaking. The great advantages of Responsible Government had been ably descanted on, but to whom are we chiefly indebted for the concession of that principle? He (Mr. Goble) well recollected the time, not long distant either, when our Representatives had little or no influence on the Government, when Bills were passed by the House of Assembly only to be tomahawked by the Legislative Council. The Report of the Earl of Durham was the first important blow struck at the

believed he was an old soldier, and as such he respected him, as well as on account of his being the Representative of his Sovereign. He (the Chairman) was himself an old soldier, having served throughout the last war, and having been in every engagement on the frontier.

4th. THE PEOPLE—the only true source of legitimate power.

The Chairman had now to propose THE TOAST of the evening: Our Guest, the Hon. FRANCIS HINCKS, whose presence among us after a long absence, was most cordially welcome. (Great applause.) When, said the Chairman, it became known that Mr. HINCKS was in Upper Canada, the Council of the District happening to be in session, the Reform members thereof determined upon inviting him to accept a public dinner at Woodstock. The time for preparation was necessarily very short, and it was impossible to communicate with many parts of the District. Unfortunately, too, the weather had proved unfavourable. The rain, which had fallen incessantly during the last night and the whole of the present day, had rendered the cross roads almost impassable. From his township (Norwich) from 15 to 20 of his immediate neighbours had intended to be present, but had been unable to reach town. From Burford, also, a large party was expected. He (the [illegible] find gentlemen present [illegible] public opinion. [illegible]orwich he could say, there was no change. The people there were of one mind, and would be prepared to do their duty on every occasion. He (the Chairman) was a Reformer of thirty years standing (great cheering) and had been a close observer of passing events, and he could say that the experience of his life had only confirmed him in his opinions. Nothing would do for Canada but Responsible Government *honestly administered*. (Great applause.) As an able advocate of that great principle, and of every measure calculated to extend the liberties of the people, and as a faithful representative of this county, he would now propose the toast which he had read.

5th. Our Guest, THE HON. FRANCIS HINCKS—we only wait an opportunity to return him triumphantly to Parliament. (Loud and long continued cheering for several minutes, after which Mr. Hincks spoke to the following effect:)

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have to acknowledge with the deepest gratitude another mark of esteem and confidence from the Reformers of the County of Oxford in addition to the many which I have received during the last six years. I can only hope to repay you, gentlemen, by my zeal in advocating what we all believe to be, the best interests of our common country—that country which I trust is equally dear to those of us who have adopted it as our own, as to those on whom it has perhaps a stronger claim, as the country of their birth. Much as I am gratified by the compliment paid to myself on the present occasion, I should be sorry indeed if this demonstration were not calculated to produce more important results than mere personal gratification. I hope and believe that it will be the means, in some degree at least, of promoting the success of the great cause to which we are devoted, and which I cannot better describe than as THE CAUSE OF CANADA. We desire that our principles and objects should be well understood, and we wish, if possible, to convince former opponents that they have either misunderstood our principles and objects, or that their own are erroneous. We wish to correct those misstatements which are from time to time circulated in order to mislead the public. I shall endeavour as briefly as the nature of the subject will permit to touch upon the principal political topics of the day.—You have been told, gentlemen, that the great question of "Responsible Government," which has so long agitated the country, is finally settled. I would wish to believe that this is the case. I am aware that our political opponents, both in and out of Parliament, profess to adopt theoretically those views on that question for which we have so long struggled. But has their practice been in accordance with their professions? I only ask you to review the history of the past year. Has there been any disposition to carry out the principles of Responsible Government? Has there been any disposition to relieve the people from the burdens which they complain of? Has there been any disposition to remove the causes of complaint

connected as I was with
organ of Catholics as
It it my duty to correct
misstatement. It was
olic Clergy had opposed
, the educational in-
da are highly creditable
blished them. At their
lassical education, with
ss than £30 a year. I
ject, but will just read
papers which all will
rity. The first, strange
nner. That print, on a
"the Church of Rome,
read education, and the
ich habitually neglected
to work in the opposite
ntend, embodies all that
he subject. The next
om the *Montreal* Wit-
tleman here read an
of the schools of the
owing that about 1800
ous education through
atholic Clergy. I feel
on this subject. I am
occasion to vindicate
ends now present - but
been got up a
am sorry for it. I did
had become convinced
eat measure, deluded at
cries which were then
e to the general politics
inions respecting Mr.
dian education, are not
nce as far as Provincial
d. These cries have
ested parties, for the
eceiving the public.—
get up a cry against
ortunities in abundance.
dstock the other day I
eration in the toll gates,
so I found that it was
the influence of the
. One gate was re-
own;—the effect of this
aristocratic Gentlemen
sing the gate, while at
ate had been placed in
se *who never use the road*
farmers, are obliged to
ould be more unjust.
bject of the Clergy Re-
hen I was in office I had
ommending District va-
s. The principle upon
s were made was that
should be selected, so
a right to complain of
ended Mr. Van Norman
n as an upright, honour-
erience, and Mr. Henry
had no claims on the
nnections to recommend
oked on Mr. Carroll as
ce to his neighbours and
him. These gentlemen
discharge of the duties
ews arrived that all pro-
spended. It turned out
Mr. Spragge, of whom
you have never heard,
efore the Crown Land
rock District lands were
ot charge Mr. Riddell
n contrary to his con-
very one knows that the
to think well of property
interested—it is well in
ll is a large land holder
nd who is Mr. Spragge?
obtained a large tract of
which he has dispossess-
and who is, of course, a
ss. On such testimony
eserves suspended; and
e opinions expressed by
members of Parliament
f the valuations in their
h Mr. Riddell and Mr.
eserves undervalued, the
l, having had the whole

[illegible] loud and continued cheering.]

The CHAIRMAN briefly returned thanks for the honour which had been done him. He was not in the habit of attending Public Dinners, and he felt himself unable to do justice to [illegible] posed his present duty on [illegible]ie had, however, done his best (cheers.)

Mr. VINING said, as his name had been mentioned by their hon. guest, he would say a few words in reply to the toast. He was the oldest member of the Brock District Council, having been elected on the establishment of Municipal Institutions in the Province. He consequently had much experience of their working, and he believed they were well calculated to promote the improvement of the country. He could not help reminding them of the exertions of their hon. guest to promote the establishment of those institutions.

Mr. SHENSTONE said that if Mr. Vining was the oldest member of the Council, he (Mr. S.) was the youngest. He was however, able to bear his humble testimony to the successful working of the Municipal Council of this District. When the Council was established the District was deeply in debt, but that debt had been paid off and they had now an overflowing Treasury, & altho' during the present year ov[illegible] improvements, they had still £1500 in hand applicable to the same purpose. The assessed property of the District was £33,000 in advance of last year, being now upwards of £300,000.

Mr. MALCOLM, of Oakland, one of the Vice Presidents, said that he had been entrusted with the next toast, which was one that fully expresed his own opinions. Responsible Government in its purity, not as it was at present carried out, was indeed the only safeguard of their liberties. (Applause.)

6. RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT,—the only safeguard of our liberties.

Mr. VINING had been entrusted with the next toast. It was one that he could perhaps propose with peculiar propriety, as a professed member and office bearer of a Christian Church, and as a Conservator of the Peace, he would give them—

7. CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ALL OVER THE WORLD.

JEREMIAH COWIN, Esq., of Blenheim, said that he had been entrusted with a toast which he was sure would be most heartily responded to by those whom he saw around him—it was the Leaders of the united Reform party of Upper and Lower Canada. He need hardly remind them how important it was to preserve a cordial union between the Reformers in all sections of the United Province. Their honourable guest had gone fully into most of the great political questions of the day, but there was one question on which he (Mr. Cowin) wished to offer a few remarks. One of the charges brought against the ex-Ministers was, their alleged abuse of the patronage of the Government. What however, had been the practice of their opponents? What Reformer had ever been appointed by them to office in this District? Even in the appointment of the Magistracy, not a single Reformer had been chosen, nor to the Commission on the Rebellion claims. With reference to the valuation of the Clergy Lands, he (Mr. C.) as an old inhabitant of Blenheim, could say that Mr. Spragge was entirely ignorant of the value of lands in that Township. He had acquired a large tract of land in a very good situation, but he was a non-resident. It was in the highest degree unfair to charge the settlers on those Clergy Lands the enhanced value caused by their own labour, and also rent or interest during the time they were in occupation (Cheers.) He (Mr. C.) was well acquainted with public opinion in Blenheim; it had been called a Tory Township, but although at Mr. HINCKS' first election it gave a majority to Mr. CARROLL; it must be recollected that Mr. C. had avowed Reform principles, on which account he got his (Mr. Cowin's) support and that of others. At the last election, notwithstanding all the exertions of the office holders, from the Bailiff to the Magistrate, and several bad votes, there was a majority in Blenheim of three for Mr. Hincks; and on another occasion that majority of three by their Member, Mr. Powell, when a late one was issued, that gentleman, though Member for the County, had not even been consulted, (cries of "shame, shame") and as had been the case in this District so it was in the Talbot, the new appointments were generally unsatisfactory, even to the Tories. Then in selecting Commissioners to decide on the Rebellion claims, altho' certainly party considerations should have been overlooked, all the persons appointed were Tories. As the alterations in the School Act had been spoken of by their Guest, he wished to state one fact, and it was an important one, in confirmation of his statement that the expense would not be reduced by the abolition of the office of Township Superintendent. In the Talbot District, where he resided, the County Superintendent had been only paid for his actual expenses under the old system, whereas in consequence of the increase of labour, it had been found necessary *to give him in addition a sum equal to the salaries of all the Township Superintendents and £14 besides* (loud cheers.) Such was the practical working of a system which was to effect such *a saving* to the public; and let it be recollected that the Talbot District was one of the [illegible] in the Province, and where the change [illegible] bly. He [Mr. Foley] could not sit down without expressing his gratification at hearing the sentiments expressed that evening, and his surprise at the ability displayed by the gentlemen who had addressed the Chair. The Gentleman who was their guest might well be proud of enjoying the confidence of such a constituency, and without offering anything like adulation, he would say that they might be proud of him [loud cheers].

The next toast was proposed by Mr. Shenstone, D. C.—

12. Education free from sectarian or party influence, based upon such principles and conducted in such a manner as that every child in the Province may be benefited thereby.

Mr. HENDRY, District Superintendent of Education, said that from his position it might be expected that he would offer a few remarks in reply to this toast. He would just say something on the subject of his appointment. His friends about him knew well the reluctance with which he had first accepted the appointment, and his diffidence as to his ability to fill it with credit to the Council and to himself.—He believed that he owed his appointment in some degree to the recommendation of the late excellent Superintendent, the Rev. Mr. Bosworth, and it was also in consequence of that gentleman's opinion of his fitness that he consented to act. He might, however, say, that he had gone through all the gradations of office. Under the old system he had been a School Trustee; when the Act of 1841 was passed, he had been elected a Commissioner in his Township, and appointed Chairman by his fellow members. Under the last Act he had been elected Superintendent of his Township, and when Mr. Bosworth resigned, he was chosen by the Council as District Superintendent. He was not aware that in the discharge of any of his duties, he had received blame from any of those with whom he had been connected. He had made these remarks in consequence of an allusion made to him by the member for this county (Mr. Riddell) in his place in Parliament. That gentleman had objected to the vesting the appointment to the office of Superintendent in the District Council on the ground of their incompetency to select, and had instanced the appointment in this District of a mechanic (hear, hear.) He would not enter at any length into the question of the School Act. No doubt it might be supposed that he approved of the change regarding the Superintendent, for he as District Superintendent would doubtless have a claim for increase of salary, owing to the increase of duty; he doubted however, whether the public would be benefited by it. There was a change made regarding the granting of certificates to the Teachers. These could now be given by the Visitors for the Township; and he [Mr. Hendry] had determined that in future he would be most rigid in granting certificates to those alone who

of the Reformers of Middlesex, several of whom would have been present but for the weather.

Mr. GOBLE, of Blenheim, had been entrusted with a toast, but he felt great diffidence in speaking to it. It was the first Dinner of the kind he had ever attended, and he was not accustomed to public speaking. The great advantages of Responsible Government had been ably descanted on, but to whom are we chiefly indebted for the concession of that principle? He (Mr. Goble) well recollected the time, not long distant either, when our Representatives had little or no influence on the Government, when Bills were passed by the House of Assembly only to be tomahawked by the Legislative Council. The Report of the Earl of Durham was the first important blow struck at the old system. Lord Sydenham, though he committed many errors, had formally sanctioned the principle of governing through a Provincial Administration, and the ever to be lamented Sir Charles Bagot had practically carried it into operation. We ought not on such an occasion to forget the services of those great men. He would propose—

The Memory of the late lamented [illegible] DURHAM and SYDENHAM, and [illegible]

[illegible] Hincks rose to propo[illegible] to their worthy host, Mr. [illegible] doing so, he would make a remark [illegible] subject which he had hitherto purposely avoided —the contested Election. His object in doing so was to express publicly his thanks, and the thanks of the Reformers of the District generally to those individuals who had sacrificed so much time and money during the Scrutiny. He thought that without being invidious, he might mention the names of Mr. Wilson, Mr. Jordan Charles, Mr. Phelan, of Ingersolville, Mr. Doty, the Chairman (Mr. Carroll), Mr. Hendry, and Mr. Cowin. They all knew the circumstances connected with the contest. He would only say that he defied any one to point to an instance in the late Parliamentary history of Great Britain in which the Government had dared to tamper with a member serving on an Election Committee. (Loud Cheers.) The fact was undeniable that a member sworn to try a contested Election, while serving on a Committee, had been literally purchased by the Government. Terms had been offered and refused, and higher terms insisted on. Two Offices were not sufficient remuneration; a third was demanded, and the price was paid. (Cries of "shame, shame.") These facts must have produced an impression on the public mind. As to Mr. Riddell, he (Mr. Hincks) had nothing to say against him. He had on all occasions borne testimony to his honourable and gentlemanly conduct. He had ever found him frank in the expression of his views, and he must say that on the subject of the reinvestment of the Reserves, Mr. Riddell had publicly declared what he would do on the day of nomination. No one who voted for him had a right to complain on this score. He had already trespassed too long on their time, and would now propose the toast he had read.

A few volunteer toasts were then proposed; among others Mrs. HINCKS; the Ladies, by Mr. Kearney; the Agricultural Interest, by Mr. Hook. The Chairman expressed his high gratification at the orderly manner in which the proceedings had been conducted, and left the Chair at about half-past 10 o'clock, when the party broke up.

PATRICK HENRY.—In Wirts's Life of Patrick Henry will be found the following sentiment, in reply to some observation of Judge Tyler in relation to the propriety of commercial restrictions: "Why," said Patrick Henry, "should we fetter commerce! If a man is in chains, he droops and bows to the earth, for his spirits are broken—looking sorrowful at his feet—but let him twist the fetters from his limbs and he will stand erect—stretching himself and assuming the look of proud defiance.—Fetter not commerce, sir! let her be as free as air—she will range the whole creation, and return on the wings of the four winds of heaven to bless the land with plenty!"—This is a noble sentiment and every way worthy of its author.

The Senate of the free city, Frankfort, has just published a proclamation, allowing the importation of corn duty free, into the territory of the republic.